FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY.

READING.

PRES-a-ply. 1857 - 1870
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here

The origin of the First Universalist Society in Reading

The Revd. Nathan. R. Wight was hired to preach in Lyceum Hall the last Sabbath in January and the first in February A.D. 1856.
This effort gave us courage to choose a Committee to solicit subscription: And finding our strength sufficient a Committee of three. Viz: Amos. Cummings. Thomas Richardson 3d & Wm. H. Merlin. were selected to procure the Hall and the services of said Wright for forty five Sundays within the year from March 1st 1856 to March 1st 1857.
Mr John Burrill was selected as Treasurer. During this time the Liberal Ladies Circle which has existed several years worked with great success: they had two Festivals and two exibitions of Tableau scenes, out of which they made money sufficient to buy a Melodian at an expense of $170.= and to pay Miss Carrie Dane for playing it.
During the year the Meetings were well attended.

The undersigned Treasurer of the First Universalist Society in Reading Respectfully Reports, that he has received for the use of said Society, for the year ending February 28th 1857 the sum of ——————— $622.97

And paid the following sums

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Revd. N. R. Wight | 300.00 | |
| Rent of Lyceum Hall | 100.00 | |
| Fluid | 6.36 | |
| Coal | 2.50 | |
| 3 Stamps | .51 | |
| 1 Blank Book | .20 | |
| Rent of Melodian | 4.00 | $613.57 |
| Ballance in the Treasury | | $ 9.40 |

Reading March 9th 1857

John Burrill. Treasurer

Reading February 7. 1837

To Horrace P. Wakefield one of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex

Sir we the undersigned wishing to form ourselves into a religious Society, by the name of the First Universalist Society in Reading, do by these presents desire you to issue a Warrant for the above purpose

Thomas. Richardson
E M. Horton
Lewis E. Gleason
Thomas. Pratt
John. Burrill
Hubbard. Cox
Isiah. Massey
Ezra B. Robinson
Nathan R. Wright
Charles Phillips

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex ss

To Thomas Richardson of Reading in said County of Middlesex

Greeting

Whereas yourself and nine other persons wishing to form a Religious Society by the name of the First Universalist Society in Reading have appl-ied to me Horrace P. Wakefield, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County of Middlesex requesting me to issue a Warrent for the calling of a Meeting of said persons

You are hereby directed to notify each petitioner personally and post an attested Copy of this Warrant seven days before said Meeting on Lyceum Hall informing them that a Meeting will be holden in the Ante Room of Lyceum Hall on Monday the 23d day of February inst, at Seven o'Clock P.M. then and there to act on the following Articles to wit

Article 1st To choose all Officers necessary for a permanent organization.

" 2d To choose a Committee to draft a Constitution and Bylaws or to accept any Constitution and Bylaws that may be presented.

" 3d To see what Method the Society will adopt for the support of Preaching the present Year.

" 4th To do all other business necessary for the permanency and prosperity of the Society.

Given under my hand at Reading this 14th day of February A.D, 1857

Horrace P. Wakefield Justice of the Peace.

Middlesex ss,

Reading February 18, 1857

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant to me directed, I have notified said persons to meet at the time and place and for the purposes aforesaid as directed in said Warrant

Thos Richardson

At a meeting of certain persons assembled in Lyceum Hall on Monday the 23d day of February 1857 at 7 o'Clock P.M. pursuant to the foregoing Warrant for the purpose of forming a Religious Society by the name of the First Universalist Society in Reading. The meting was called to order by Horace P. Wakefield Esqr one of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex

Article 1st Thomas B. Pratt was chosen Clerk and sworn by the aforesaid Justice

" Edward M. Morton was chosen Moderator

" On motion of John Nichols Voted to have a Treasurer and Collector

" John Burrell was chosen Treasurer and Collector with the privilege of employing an assistant

" Voted that we have an Executive Committee which shall consist of three

" Darius Pratt, Edward M. Morton and Reuben Nichols were chosen to act as Executive Committee

Article 2d A Constitution and Bylaws were presented by Revd S.R. Wright for the consideration of the Society

" Voted that the articles in the proposed Constitution be acted upon seperately

Article 3d Voted that the third Article be passed over

4th On motion Voted that the hireing the Hall be left discretionary with the Committee

" On motion Voted to adjourn to the first Wednesday Eve in March at 7 o'Clock

Wednesday Eve March 4. 1857

Met according to adjournment. The meting was called to order and when on motion Voted to adjourn to Monday Eve March 9th 1857

Monday Eve March 9th 1857

Met according to adjournment. The following persons requested to become members of this Society

Thomas B. Batt, John Nichols, Isaac Harriman,
Nathan Carter, Saml S. Ruggles, Nathan Melendy,
Darius Pratt, Alvah S. Kendall, Samuel Holbrook,
Luther Lucas, Reuben Nichols, Ebenr Buxton,
Jonathan Cook Jr, John A. Robinson, Jonathan Baldwin
James P. Briggs.

On motion Voted that the above named persons be received as members of this Society

On motion of Reuben Nichols Voted that the Constitution and Bylaws as presented to the Society for their consideration by Revd. S. R Bright be accepted and adopted — which is as follows

Constitution and Bylaws
of the First Universalist Society in Reading

We, the subscribers, feeling desirous to grow in grace, and in a knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," do hereby form ourselves into a Society, that we may be helps to each other, and that by our united energies we may better serve the purposes of religion and truth. We cheerfully adopt, and subscribe the following Constitution, as the basis of our government

Article 1st This Society shall be called the First Universalist Society in Reading

2d The object of this Society shall be the promotion of truth and morality among its members, and also in the world at large; and as the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, is calculated above all truth to inspire the heart with the emotions of benevolence and virtue, this Society shall deem it one of its main objects to support the preaching of the Gospel, according to the Society's ability, and to aid in any other practicable way, in spreading a knowledge of it among men

3d. As a common basis of religious faith, this Society adopts the following Declaration, accepted by the General Convention of Universalists, at its session in Winchester, New Hampshire, A.D. 1803, expressed in the following words:
"We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, contain a revelation of the character of God, and of the duty, interest, and final destination of mankind.
"We believe there is one God, whose nature is love, revealed in one Lord Jesus Christ, by one Holy Spirit of grace, who will finally restore the whole family of mankind to holiness and happiness.
"We believe that holiness and true happiness are inseparably connected; and that believers ought to maintain order, and practise good works, for these are good and profitable unto men."

4th. Any person sustaining a good moral character, and assenting to the aforesaid Declaration may be admitted a member of this Society, on application to that effect, by a majority of votes at any regular meeting.

5th. It shall be regarded as the duty of every member to adorn the doctrin of the Lord Jesus with an upright life and conversation, to contribute according to his ability, in the manner determined on by a majority, towards the support of public worship, and the other necessary expences of the Society; to attend, as far as is practicable, and consistent with health, upon the exercises of the sanctuary, as well as the regular meetings of the society for business.

6th. This Society shall have an annual meeting, it shall be held on the third Monday in February, at such place as the Standing Committee may direct, at which meeting the officers of the Society shall be elected, and the sum necessary to be raised, and manner of raising money for the ensuing year, shall be determined on

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex ss.

To the Clerk of the First Universalist Society in Reading.

You are hereby directed to notify the members of said Society by posting a copy of this warrant on Lyceum Hall. That a meeting will be holden in the Anti room of Lyceum Hall on Monday the 15th day of Feby inst. at seven o'Clock P.M. Then and there to act on the following Articles, to wit.

Article 1st To Choose a Moderator

" 2d To hear Treasurers Report and act thereon

" 3d To Choose all necessary Officers for the ensuing Year

" 4th To see what measures the Society will adopt — in relation to preaching the ensuing year

" 5th To hear reports of Executive Committee and act thereon And transact such other business as may legally come before them

Darius Pratt
E M Horton
Reuben Nichols
} Executive Committee

Reading Feby 4. 1858

A true copy — Attest Thomas B. Pratt, Clerk.

Middlesex ss.

Reading February 15. 1858

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, to me directed, I have notified said persons to meet at the time and place and for the purposes aforesaid as directed in said Warrant

Thomas B. Pratt, Clk.

Assembled February 15. 1858 in accordance with the foregoing Warrant. to wit.

Article 1st Chose Jonathan Baldwin, Moderator

The following Persons requested to become members of this Society

Edward Appleton. Seth Bessey. Edward Sifford.
Eastman Austin. Geo. H. Flint. Thomas E. Prescott.
Kiram Litchfield. John Rand. Wm. A. Mcdonald.
Gerrit H. Bennink. Nathaniel Parker. Amos Flint.
John V. Gray. Amos Cummings Jr. Andrew Lewis.
John A. Blunt. Edwin S. Wainwright. Josiah W. Coburn.
John C. White. Chas Lewis. Timothy W. Hartshorn.
John E. Walker. George C. Coney. Henry Cook.
Lewis L. Laclair. Minot T. Mann. Harry Hunton.

On motion voted that the above named persons be received as members of this Society.

Article 2d The Treasurer submitted his report which is as follows.

The undersigned Treasurer of the First Universalist Society in Reading. Respectfully reports as follows.

Received Ballance in the Treasury at the

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| last annual report | | 9.10 |
| Rec'd of S. S. Sweetser for | 1856 | 1.20 |
| " " Subscribers " | 1857 | 512.50 |
| | | $522.50 |

Paid the following sums viz

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev'd Nath'l K. Wright | 457.00 |
| John C. Walker | 25.00 |
| Coal for 1856 | 6.75 |
| Fluid | 5.77 |
| Rent of Hall | 25.00 |
| | $522.52 |

Ballance in the Treasury — — — .28

Reading February 15. 1858.

John Burrill, Treasurer.

On motion voted that the Treas. Report be accepted

Article 3d Chose Thomas B. Bull, Clerk, was sworn by the Moderator.

" John Burrill Treasurer and Collector.

continued

Chose Ezra B. Robinson, John Nichols, and
Samuel H. Hancock, Executive Committee

" " On motion Voted that the money to defray our expences the coming year be raised by Subscription.

" Chose E. B. Robinson & Isaac Harriman, to solicit Subscriptions

" 5th The Committee presented from Revd N. R. Wright a letter of withdrawall of membership from this Society, and declining a reengagement as their Pastor

" A vote was passed by Exhibition and when on motion, Voted that it be recorded and a copy of the same be sent to Revd N. R. Wright.

Which is as follows

" Resolved, That the First Universalist Society of Reading have heard with extreme regret the communication from their Pastor Revd N. R. Wright, signifying his intention to resign his charge over them; that they desire to express their sympathy with him in the afflictions resulting from the ill health of his family; and while they cannot remonstrate with justice against the separation thus rendered necessary, they wish to thank Mr. Wright for the benifits they have experienced under his ministrations; and if it is not possible to remove the causes of his resignation, they wish him and his family health and happiness wherever they may go

" Chose Darius Pratt, Thos. Richardson & Minot J. Mann for Committee on Singing, subject to the control of the Exte Com.

" On motion of John Nichols voted that the subscribers pay their subscriptions without being called upon by the Collector.

" Darius Pratt, Chairman of the Executive Committee submitted a verbal report, which was accepted, and is in substance as follows

" On motion of Amos Cummings Voted to Adjourn to Friday Eve 26th inst at 7 o'Clock

Assembled agreable to adjournment Friday evening
February 26th 1858

" On motion Voted that our Treasurer hire, (in behalf of the Society) One hundred and fifty dollars of the Universalist Ladies in Reading.

" " " Voted that the Executive Committee be instructed to engage the Revd A. B. Wright to supply the Pisk, by exchange or otherwise during the month of March.

" " " Voted to Dissolve this Meeting,

Thomas B. Pratt. Clerk.

[illegible]

Attest Thomas S. Pratt, Clerk,

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

1st to Choose a Moderator,

2d to do what action the Society will take in relation to the letter of resignation from our Pastor,

3d to hear the Annual Report of Trustees,

4th to do what business the Society will transact at its Annual meeting,

5th to see if they will give this Committee any further instructions.

Hoping to hear from you at the Society's Clerk at the time and place of meeting.

Yours &c.

A. C. Glasier.
Andrew Howes.
Wm. Jno. Ball.
Committee

Reading, August 3d, 1860.

Reading, Sept 10, 1860.

I have served the within notice by posting attested copies of the same on the Town Hall building in two public places in said Town of Reading.

Publishing Officer.

Met Feb 18th 1861 agreable to the foregoing Warrant, and proceded as follows to wit.

Art 1st Chose J. H. Harlshorne Moderator.
" 2d " Henry Cook Clerk and was qualified by the Moderater.
" " " Isaac Harriman Treasurer and Collecter.
" " " L. E. Gleason, G. W. Flint, & J. W. Harlshorne Executive Committee.
" " " G. W. Flint & Thos Richardson, Committee on Music.
" 3d Treasurers report as follows was read and accepted.

To the First Universalist Society in Reading the Treasurer submits this Anual Report. to wit

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rec'd a subscription list to collect of | | $ 623.50 |
| Donation by the Ladies | | 50.00 |
| Collection by A. Howes | | 6.00 |
| Festival proceeds, A. Holbrook | | 84.68 |
| | | $ 764.18 cts |

Paid of the current funds.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| To liquidate last years debt | | $ 45.75 |
| To Rev L. M. Burrington | | 360.00 |
| " " A. Waggoner | | 42.00 |
| " " " R. Wright | | 15.50 |
| " " S. A. Davis | | 10.00 |
| " " S. Whitney | | 52.00 |
| " George W. Wiley for Music | | 24.00 |
| " I Sargent for rent of Hall | | 75.00 |
| For Sextons service | | 27.50 |
| Miscellaneous expences | | 10.99 |
| | | $ 572.74 cts |
| Cash on hand | $ 23.19 | |
| Uncollected subscription | " 168.25 | |
| | | $ 191.44 cts |
| | | " 764.18 cts |

Jonathan Baldwin
Treasurer.

" 5th Voted that the Executive Committee have power to solicit subscriptions.
" 7th " " Subscriptions be collected monthly.

On motion Voted that Thos Richardson be added to the Executive Committee, to confer with the Brethren in N. Reading to ascertain if they will seperate with ours in supporting a Teacher the ensuing year.

On motion, Voted to adjourn to three weeks at 7 Oclk P.M.

Met March 11th agreable to adjournment.

On motion, Voted that the Executive Committee ascertain on what terms they can hire the Hall and Ante rooms for the use of the Society, Sunday School and Ladies Circle, the present year, and report the same at the next meeting.

Voted to adjourn to two weeks at 7 Oclk P.M.

Met March 25th as per adjournment.

The Committee reported that the directors of the Lyceum Hall Association would not state on what terms they would let the Hall untill the Society should make them some direct proposal.

Voted that the Committee of the Society be instructed to hire the hall at a price not exceeding one dollar for a half day, or two dollars for a whole day of one or two or three services. the Ladies Circle to have the use of the Ante rooms once in two weeks during the time the society shall so use the hall, without an additional expence—and that the Society may have the use of the hall and Ante rooms for as many Festivals as may be wanted, for three dollars each Festival or S. School Exhibition, we paying all expences of lighting and taking charge of the Hall; to take effect March 1st 1861.

Voted to adjourn to next week on wednesday evening to meet at 7 Oclk.

Met April 3d agreable to adjournment.

Voted to adjourn to next week on thursday at 7 Oclk P.M.

Met April 11th according to adjournment.

The Executive Committee reported that the directors of the L. H. Ass'n were willing to agree to our terms, with the reservation that if they had an opportunity to let the Hall to better advantage during the year they should have the right to do so by giving us the preference.

Voted, to hire the hall as proposed in the resolution.

Voted that in the event of the directors of the L. H. Ass'n refusing to comply with our terms, that the Committee be instructed to hire the Hall in the Bank Building at an expence not exceeding that offered for Lyceum Hall; to be used for the same purposes, including the meeting of the Liberal Ladies Benevolent Association one in two weeks.

Voted that the Executive Committee so explain the Resolution to the directors of the L. H. Ass'n that the occupancy of the Hall shall be continuous.

Voted that the Treasurer give each Subscriber the priviledge of changing his subscription to such sums as he shall see fit

Voted, to dissolve this meeting.

Henry Cook Clerk.

[illegible]

[illegible] according to adjournment no
quorum being present, meeting adjourned sine die.—
A. Hones—for the Com.

Thos. Richardson was chosen by the committee to attend
the Mass. Universalist State Convention at Gloucester Oct. 20th

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex ss

To Isaac Harrison Collector of the First Universalist Society in Reading in said County

You are hereby instructed to notify and warn the members of said Society to meet at the Lecture Room in the Bank Building on Monday evening Feb. 22 inst. at 7 o'clock to act on the following Articles, to wit;

Article 1st To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.
" 2d To hear the Treasurers report and act thereon.
" 3d To choose all necessary Officers for the ensuing year.
" 4th To see how the Society will raise its funds to support Preaching the ensuing year, and how much they will raise
" 5th To see what instructions the Society will give their Committee
" 6th To see what instructions the Society will give their Collector
" 7th To transact such other business as may properly come before said meeting

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon at or before the time and place of said meeting to the Clerk

Reading February 13th 1864

William Lewis
John A. Bent
T. W. Hartshorn
} Committee of the First Universalist Society, Reading

Middlesex ss.

Reading Feb. 22d 1864.

I have served the within warrant by posting an attested copy of the same at the entrance of Ellsworth Hall seven days previous to the time appointed for said meeting

Isaac Harrison - Collector

A true copy

Attest - A. Howes - for the Com.

Assembled February 22d agreeable to the foregoing warrant and proceeded as follows to wit;

Article 1st Chose Andrew Howes Moderator

" 2d The Treasurer submitted the following report which was accepted.

Report for the year ending March 1st 1864—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Amount Subscribed | | $261.60 |
| " Collected | 238.74 | |
| " Uncollected | 22.86 | 261.60 |
| " Paid as follows: | | |
| " Cash to Rev. E. A Eaton | 165.50 | |
| " " Rent of Ellsworth Hall | 44.20 | |
| " " " " Lyceum Hall | 5. | |
| " " Gas at Business Meetings in '63 | 1.24 | |
| " " R. Mc. Boyce Coal | 7.50 | 223.24 |
| " " on hand | | 15.50 |
| | | $238.74 |

Isaac Harriman
Treasurer & Collector

" 3d Chose Thos. Richardson Clerk and was qualified by the Moderator

Chose Isaac Harriman Treasurer & Collector

" Saml Holbrook, John A. Blunt & Andrew Howes Executive Committee

" 4th On motion of S. N. Harsham voted to raise funds by Subscription — voted to pass over the remainder of the article

" 5th Voted that the Standing Committee Solicit subscriptions — and that John A. Blunt be authorized to appoint a Substitute to solicit —

" 7th John A. Blunt in behalf of the Executive Committee made written report which on motion of Isaac Harriman was accepted and adopted and voted to be entered on Record and send a Copy of same to Rev. E. A. Eaton —

On Motion of Isaac Harriman voted to instruct the Executive Committee to hire Ellsworth Hall providing the Subscription shall amount

Voted to adopt the note of last year on the article
5th - To reduce the number to constitute a quorum to Eight -

Voted that the thanks of this society be presented
to Rev. John H. Bent for his able and effective services
in behalf of this Society the past year

Report of the Executive Committee - on the
financial affairs for the year 1864

To the First Universalist Society of Reading
your Committee by leave to report

That in
congratulating you on the success of our society for the
unprecedented events of Reading the past year, and
whatever limited means our expectations have been more
than realized,

Your Committee were induced to see on what
terms the Hall in the Bank building could be obtained
for the use of the society - The terms were one dollar for
each half day or seventy five dollars for the year

The Society voted to hire said Hall giving the Committee
discretion on what terms after this or any adjourned
meetings in town being present the meeting was
adjourned Sine die, Your Committee deemed it best
to hire by the Sunday half of the day

The rule restricted to all the privileges in our
meetings for Sunday schools and the Lady members of
families - The prosperous condition of the Sunday
School the interest of the society in its
welfare and the low limits we have placed parts of
the community to which we belong

We would recommend a change in the time of
services in the forenoon of the Hall by the year

We feel humble in view of our financial ability
to suitably remunerate our Pastor for his labors of
love with us - Therefore resolved

That this Society tender their heartfelt thanks to the
Rev. E. A. Eaton for his benevolent and untiring zeal
in the cause of this Society - may the richest of

of Trustees Sessions be discontinued & Son Lane and his
All of which is respectfully submitted
John A Blunt } Executive Committee
J. B. Hartshorn } First Universalist
Reading February 22d 1864 Society.
After hearing the above report voted to dissolve
Andrew Howe for the Committee

So much of the above report as would be of interest to
the Rev. E. A. Eaton according to the vote of the annual
meeting has been handed to him.
Reading May 3d 1864 Andrew Howes for the Committe

Reading Oct 16th 1864.
His day after Services Society chose John A. Blunt
delegate to the Mass Universalist Convention to be
holden in Worcester Oct 18th 19th & 20th
Andrew Howes. for Com.

Reading Nov. 20th 1864
Took a collection, to aid the needy, and the following
according to the usual custom on the Sunday preceding
Thanksgiving Day — Amount Received $8.16
which was Paid out by the Committee as follows viz;
Mrs. Barbour — 2.05
Mrs. Lindsey 2.05
Mrs. Tolman 2.05
Mrs Copeland 2.01 $8.16
Andrew Howes for the Com.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex, ss

To Isaac Harriman Esqr one of the Selectmen of the Town of Reading in said County, Greeting. You are hereby instructed to notify and warn the members of said Society to meet at the Arte Room in the Bank building on Monday, evening, February 20th at 7½ o'clock to act on the following articles to wit

1st To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting
2d To hear the Treasurer's report and act thereon
3d To hear the Executive Committee's report and act thereon
4th To chose all necessary Officers for the ensuing year
5th To see how much money the Society will raise for the Support Preaching the ensuing year and in what manner they will raise it
6th To see what instructions the Society will give their Committee
7th To see what instructions the Society will give their Committee
8 To transact such other business as may legally come before said meeting.—

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon at or before the time and place of said meeting

Reading February 11th 1765—

John H Hunt
Samuel Nichols
Andrew Hemmes

Committee
First Universalist
Society, Reading Mass

Pittsfield ss Tuesday Feb 14th 1765
Pursuant to the Inscription, [illegible] to me
directed in the absence of the Collector I have
Served the within Warrant by posting
an attested copy of the same at the entrance
to Ellsworth's Hall seven days prior to the
time appointed for said meeting—

Andrew Howes
Collector pro tem

Report of Treasurer of First Universalist Society
Reading for year ending March 1st 1865

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Amount of Subscription Book | 349.35 | | |
| Cash | 400 | $ | 353,35 |
| Collect as per J Barrimans report | $16560 | | |
| by A Howes " " | 13700 | | 302,60 |
| amount claimed by Subscribers as paid over above | 2800 | | |
| paid by J Barriman of said Howes | 2550 | | 25,60 328,10 |
| still unpaid | 250 | | |
| Uncollected Subscription | 2275 | | 25,25 |
| Whole Amount Collected from Subscription | | | 328,10 |
| Amt paid Rev B. A. Eaton as per J Howes report | $112,50 | | |
| as per receipt given given A. Howes | 18750 | | |
| Total paid Mr Eaton " " | $ 300,00 | | |
| retained by J Hunniman for Bills to | | | |
| have been paid by him in previous years | 2250 | $ | 32,50 |
| Balance on hand from Subscription | | | 560 |
| Net proceeds from Festival | 130,35 | | |
| paid rent of Hall for the year ending with date | 1500 | | 55 35 |
| Amt rec'd from sale of seats by J A Blunt as per report | 1925 | | |
| paid sundry Bills & Expenses | 6011 | | |
| Amt in J Blunts hands | 1914 | | |
| Cash on hand | | | 61,95 |
| Whole Amount of Funds | | | 8109 |

Treasury to A Howes Dr

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| To Mrs Richardsons Bill for keeping Minister | 970 | |
| " " Pinkham | 1260 | |
| Horse & carriage to take boys home to Malden | 250 | |
| Cash on to South Reading | 100 | |
| Expressage on letter from Rev E A Walker to Comm | 25 | |
| Two qrts bills from Mrs Hemenway June 1 1864 '64 '65 | 123 | 2 7,28 |

Recapitulation

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Whole Amount funds | | 80,09 |
| Less Amount A Howes Bill as above | 2728 | |
| in J Blunts hands | 1914 | 4642 |
| | | 33,67 |
| Received of Benjamin Nichols | | 500 |
| " of A Howes | | 50 |
| | | 39,17 |

Paid Rebuilt Blunt to pay Rev Benjm Smith and Rev E B Eaton

3800
$ 1.17

Reading Feb 14th 1865

Met Agreeable to the foregoing Warrant and Proceeded as Follows.

Annual 1st Chose John A Blunt Moderator

2 Said on the Table as the Treasurer was not ready to rep.

3 Executive Committee Report

In accordance with the past custom of this Society and in order to bring directly before this Annual meeting the doings of your Committee and the condition of Society affairs we would respectfully present the following report

Under instructions at the annual meeting subscriptions were solicited to support preaching 48 Sabbaths, one service each day during the year. The amount subscribed 34,35 Though not all that was desirable was as

much as could be expected from the limited means of those that assist in sustaining Liberal preaching - and your Com deemed it sufficient to warrant hiring Ellsworth Hall in accordance with the vote at the annual meeting for the sum of $15,00 and as the offer of Revd J. Eaton was considered as good an arrangement as could be effected with any one the Committee agreed with him to supply 45 sabbaths one service each for the sum of three hundred dollars and although he has preached but eight times during the year we have no cause to complain as the supply have been for the most part satisfactory - and therefore have regret that the state of the funds will not allow some addition to be made to the amount subscribed as the cost of living has nearly doubled during the last year - The Committee are aware that they have assumed responsibilities somewhat beyond the duties, but they are able to plead the good of the society, as the basis of any assumption not legally within their province - the death of the Societys Clerk Bro Thomas Richardson upon whom the Committee leaned for advice and counsel and whose loss the society deplores feels and mourns occasioned a vacancy which the Constitution and by laws did not provide to fill till the annual meeting - That duty has been performed by one of the Committee designated for that purpose - The Societys Treasurer & Collector Bro Isaac Hutchinson having enlisted in the U.S. Service in Aug last the Committee were authorised by him to make collections. which has been done

and a report of their doings sent to him.
during the first part of the year many
complaints were made by various persons that
they were not able to seat their families
to gether and that books could not be left
in the seats and found on succeeding sabbaths.
from the known difficulty in obtaining a
quorum for the transaction of society business
your committee decided to refer matter directly
to individual members of the society and nearly
all that were consulted advised a choice of
seats to be sold at auction as the most feasible
way of arranging the matter - and although
every body was not consulted the committee felt
authorised to carry out what seemed to be
the wishes of the society
as a large majority and after frequency notified
from the desk in preceding sabbaths and in other
ways the choice of seats were sold at auction
on the evening of may 5th The proceeds amounted
to 79,25 was left in the hands of Bro. John A. Blunt
to be expended for things necessary for the
hall. the balance to spend on incidental
expenses of the society - and as the question
has been raised how long the effect of that
sale is to last the committee will merely say
that they have not presumed to act beyond
their term of office - but would recomend
the society to take some action in the matter
as this present meeting - the committee
would also recomend that in future the
part of the 2d clause of Artical 7th of the
Constitution & by laws relating to paying
out money ~~hereafter~~ be enforced.
finding that we are likely to come short
of funds to meet the expenses incurred
the committee recommended an
entertainment and festival

which was carried through by the united efforts of all in meetings of December 12 & 13th with a great spiritual result the nett Amount realised 130.35= ~~75.00~~ was paid out of the rent of the hall the balance = 55.35= is in the hands of the committee as per vote of settlement meeting held Dec 15th we have been favored during the with a great variety preachers than ever before in the history of this society in March we had Rev Mr Hawes once Mr Campbell of Sanquhar twice and Mr Eaton once. Mr Eaton twice in April White of Dowell once and one Sunday no meeting on account of illness of Mr Eaton in May we had Ministers Hawes Dunn of Muirhead Eaton Biddle & Wright of Ayr in June Mr Hawes Eaton Campbell and Thorburn of Prestwick in July Edwin Thompson Campbell and Fitzgerald and one Sunday no preaching except a volentary service from Mr Mr Wright to whom the committee would recommend a small present if the funds will allow Rev J B Hare preached one Sunday and was paid by out side subscription. Supt we were supplied by the Rev Mrs Usher Spaulding Hawes & Eaton - Oct Father Cable preach twice Hawes & Mr Skinner & Heath of Prestwick in Nov Edward Thompson Brechin Mr Wingfield Nichols of Beverley & Hawes. Dec we had Rev Henry Leonard. S.S. table Mr Hawes & Mr Eaton Jan. S.S. table Heath Eaton Leonard and Kitteridge. as far as the committee can get an expression they feel that the society are not fully satisfied with the present manner of having preaching as it is not really so pleasant as to have a settled minister. but they feel that the majority are satisfied that it is as well as can be done with the amount of funds which can be raised and they are of the opinion if a like result could be obtained for the coming year that a large proportion would be satisfied — the society numbers full as many as at the commencement of the year

and an interest is as truly manifested on the part of those that attend the S School remains in much the same condition. There is room enough for more although it passes the largest number of the usual audience at the regular service - it needs all the sympathy and fund that can be spared to keep it prosperous and useful.

Reading Feb 20th /65
Executive Committee of the
First Universalist
Society

( John A Blunt
Sam Hubbard
Andrew House

Voted 1 Whose Service is to Ephesus block and presided by Moderator
" Whose John A Blunt. & W Coburn & Burton Executive Com
" Charles G Rogers Collector & Treasurer
" J. W. Hutchinson Singing Committee
" John A Blunt. A Howes Committee on Subscription

Voted to raise the money by subscription
" John A Blunt & Andrew Howes on Subscription
Voted on the Table

Voted Rebecca Y voted to instruct Treasurer Collector
to pay no bill or money unless ordered or
approved by at least two of the Committee
Voted to Adjourn to Thursday evening March 9
at 7 O block
met according to Adjournment
their being no program present in motion
of W Howes that we Adjourn to Monday
evening March 13th at 7 O block
met According to Adjournment
Motion of Sam Hubbard that the Treasurer
and Collectors report be read
Voted said report.
voted to Abate Bro Thos Richardson
Subscription of 1864

Voted not to accept the Trens & Collectors report
Vote that J. H Blunt & Hines Sam Hutchcraft
be a committee to inform B.G. Harriman
Treasurer & Collector the vote of the Society
that they do not accept of his report
and that he be requested to bring up
on Monday A. Reuben Nichols that the
Executive refuse be accepted
Voted to Accept said report
Voted that Andrew Hines be instructed
to bring all out standing bill Against the
Society and pay the balance of funds into
the hands of B.G. Harriger Treas & Collector
and John Blunt was to pay the Treas & Collector
what money was in his hands
Voted to Set the Time Thursday evening
March 23d
Voted to dissolve this meeting.

J. Sig Ephesian Recorder

Commonwealth Massachusetts

Middlesex ss

To Charles G Rogers

Treasurer & Collector of the East Universalist Society in Reading in said County Greeting

You are hereby requested to notify & warn the Members of said Society to meet at the usual rooms in the Bank Building on Monday Feb 19th 1866 at ½ 0 Clock to Act on the following Articles to wit

Article 1st to chose Moderator to preside at said Meeting

2 to hear the Treasurers report and act there on

3 to hear the Committees Report and Act thereon

4 to choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year

5 to see how much money the society will raise for the ensuing year and in what manner they will raise it

6 to hear the report of all other Committes

7 To see what instructions the society will give their Committee

8 to see what instructions the society will give their Collector

9 to see what the society will do in relation to building a meeting house the ensuing year

10 to transact such further business as may legally come before them

Hereof fail not and make due returns of this warrant with your doings thereon at or before the time and place of said meeting to the Clerk

Reading Feb 10th 1866

John A. Blunt
W. Lebanon
W. Burton

Committee of the First Universalist Society Reading

Mass

I have served the within warrant by
posting an attested copy of the same at
the entrance of Ebenezer Hall seven days
previous to the time appointed for said meeting

Charles G Rogers
Constable

Reading February 14th 1866

Met agreable to the warrant
and proceeded as follows to wit
under }

Article 1 Choose Andrew Howes Moderator

" 2 Had Treasurer report
and it was accepted and adopted

" 3 Had Executive Committee report

To the members of the First Universalist Society.
Brethren another year has rolled away and
and we are happy to find you in such a
prosperous condition at the commencement of
this year. We were left without a pastor and
as we were hoping to unite with the South Reading
society their annual meeting not being until
April a month later than ours so that we had
to provide ministers by the sunday which
we found to be rather expensive considering
our limited means. Mr Bell preached March 12th
Mr Benton Smith March 19th Mr Howes March 26
4th Mr Atkinson April 2d W W Hayward 9th 15th
& 16th and 24th during that time the two
Societies united together and hired
Rev W W Hayward who was installed as
pastor over the two Societys this Society to
pay him at the rate of 400,
& agreed to supply the pulpit one half of
a day each sunday the engagement to
commence (Nov) first 1865 and March 1st 1866
The society has increased in interest and in
numbers during the last year so that we
have out grown the place that we occupy.
we wish to impress upon the society the
importance of the sunday school to that and.
to that alone must we look for the future
growth of our society it has depended upon

its own resources the past year for its support and we hope that the society will do something this coming year in its behalf. There has been a wish expressed by some of the society that we might build a meeting house during the coming year. and we put an article in the warrant so that the matter might be brought legally before the society and we would recomend that this society use all the means within their power so that when we assemble again at our annual meeting it may be in our own and not in anothers house.

all of which is respectfully submited

John A Blunt
W Coleman
Edwin Buxton
} Committe of the First Universalist Society

Reading Feb 19th 1866

4th Artical laid on the table to hear the Committees report heard the Committees report and excepted the same under Artical 4th Chose J E Gleason Clerk under Artical 4th Chose

John A Blunt
W Coleman
Andrew Bowes
} Executive Committee

Chose Trustees of Trust Estate

Chose William S Richardson Committe on Singing

Dec 5th under this artical voted to lay the remainde of this warrant on the table

voted to adjourn until Thursday evening March 1st at 7 Oclock

March 1st 1866

Met agreeable to adjournment
and was called to order and for the want of
a quorum adjourned to Saturday Evening
March 3rd at 7 Oclock
met according to Adjournment
Article 5 Motion to leave the
matter in regard to how much money shall be
raised for the support of preaching this
ensuing year Exp. Comm
Article 6 to hear all other committees reports and were
accepted and the committee discharged
this committee consisted of the names below
A Howes. J Blunt. Sam Wallbrook.
and the Treasurer J. Hareman paid over
to this committee the sum of two dollars & 50 ¢
and the same was paid to Charles G Rogers
Treasurer & Collector

Passed over

Voted that the Treasurer pay no bills
without two or more of the Executive
committee Signatures appear on the same
under Article 4 Wm S Nicholson made
application to become a member of this
society and he was voted a member
James Reid and Charles F Pinkham
was proposed for members which
and was voted in as Members
Rev W. W. Haywood. Made application
to become a member and the same was voted
in as a member

Voted moved by S G Gleason to chose a committee
to see what they can do in relation
to building a Church
Chose for this committee
the following persons for this term

Mr John A Blunt Mrs Samuel Emerson
Mrs Hubbard & two Mrs Reuben Perkins
Mr Edward Sullard Mrs Emily Ruggles
Wm Hungerford Mrs S H Hungerford
& 2 Children Mrs Stephen M H Gill
Mr Thomas Pratt Mrs Chas & Dinkham Mrs Josiah Osborn Chas Buxton

Voted that this Committee have power to fill vacancys.

Voted to Dissolve this meeting

S. C. Gleason Sclerk

Reading Nov 25 1866

a Collection was taken for the needy according to the regular Custom on the Sunday preceding Thanksgiveing day
amount received $ 9.00
which was paid out by the com as follows

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr John Robinson | $ 2 00 | |
| Mr Barber " | 2 00 | |
| Mrs A. P. Smith. | 5 00 | $ 9,00 |

[illegible]

[illegible] $ 422.77
" [illegible] 11.50
" " " other courses 15.50
434.77

" [illegible] 11.
" " [illegible] )
[illegible] )
[illegible] )
" [illegible] 301.40
" [illegible] 1.14
[illegible] )
[illegible] 4.11
[illegible] 1.11
[illegible] $ 410.31

" in January 12.11
[illegible] 0.31 17.61 434.77

[illegible] $ 847.11

[illegible] $ 17.111

[illegible]
[illegible]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex SS;

To Chas. P. Cogan, Collector of the First Universalist Society in Reading in said County.

Greeting: In the name of the Commonwealth you are hereby required to notify and warn the members of said Society, to meet at the Town House in the Bank Building, on Monday evening Feb. 15 at 7½ o'clock, to act on the following articles, to wit;

Article 1st To choose a Moderator.

" 2d To hear the Treasurer's report and act thereon.

" 3d To hear the Executive Committee's report and act thereon.

" 4th To choose all necessary Officers for the ensuing year.

" 5th To see how much money the Society will raise this ensuing year, for the support of Preaching, and in what manner they will raise it.

" 6th To see what the Executive Committee shall act thereon.

" 7th To see what instructions the Society will give the Executive Committee.

" 8th To see what instructions the Society will give the Collector.

" 9th To transact such other business as may legally come before said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Clerk of said meeting at the time.

Reading Feb. 5 1867

Chas. P. Cogan
Executive Committee
A. Hess

A true copy Attest

A. Hess Clerk.

Reading March 28. 1867.

Met according to adjournment, Journal read and approved

Art. 3d. Taken up and Ex. Com. report read and approved and accepted

" 6th Taken up Church Building Com. reported and the Com continued a committee of three John A Blunt. Ed. Safford James Reid to take the subject into consideration and report at an adjourned meeting -

Clerk instructed to correspond with members in regard to their present and future connection with the Society in order to have such persons as members as shall take an interest in the society -

Heard singing com.'s report $300. needed to procure a good Choir - instructed Com. to procure singing for a sum not exceeding $100, for the year - Singing Com. resigned matter left in the hands of the Ex. Committee

Meeting adjourned for 4 weeks

A. Howes Clerk

Report of Executive Committee for year ending March 1. 1867 -

From the impression at the annual meeting as the wish of the Society the Com. retained as Pastor the Rev. W. W. Hayward he dividing his time with the So. Reading Society and residing at So. Reading as during the year previous -

At the Annual meeting in 1866 a committee of fourteen was appointed to solicit funds to build a church but as yet they have not been successful - The general attendance on the regular Sunday services has been rather below the previous year although the seats were all rented at a good rate -

The Conference meetings have been very poorly attended

The manner of raising the money the past year we think is the best method yet tried -

We would respectfully recommend that inasmuch as there is a fund in the hands of the Treasurer arising from the last annual festival that it be placed together with such sums as may be in hand over and above the expenditures - in a fund to be used for building a Church or fitting up a permanent place of worship for the Society -

Without discouraging we feel that more unanimity of thought and action necessary to a prosperous growth

The financial condition of the Society is good and a determination to place it on a permanent basis by making each year self sustaining and finding every dollar that can be spared will materially assist in the good influence in the community

John A. Hunt
A. Howes Ex. Com.

March 10. 1867

At a meeting held after Sunday services the following were chosen delegates to attend the Conference meeting at Lowell consisting of twenty Societies to be held on Wednesday 13 inst.

Chas Rc Intire John A Hunt Reuben Nichols
Wm Saml. Simmons and Wm A. Howes
delegates empowered to appoint substitutes

A. Howes Clerk

October 13 1867

At a meeting held after Sunday services the following delegates were chosen to attend the Conference meeting at Lowell on Wednesday 16th inst.

John A. Hunt Reuben Nichols
Wm Saml. Simmons and Wm A. Howes
delegates empowered to appoint substitutes

A. Howes Clerk

Nov. 24. 1867

In accordance with the usual custom took up a collection for the needy and received six dollars and sixty eight cents $6.68
which was paid out as follows

Mrs. Fred Smith $5.00
Mrs. Harriet Robinson 1.68 $6.68

A. Howes - Clerk

Sunday Dec 8th took up a Collection in aid of the Second Universalist Society of Portland amt $5, which was sent Dec 9th as a token of sympathy A. Howes Clerk

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex ss:

To Lewis E. Gleason Collector of the First Universalist Society in Reading in said County: Greeting

You are hereby instructed to notify and warn the Members of said Society, to meet at the Hall in the Bank Building on Thursday evening Dec 12th at 7 o'clock to act on the following Articles, to wit

Art. 1st To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

" 2d To see what action the Society will take in regard to procuring a place for Preaching.

" 3d To transact all other business that may legally be brought before the meeting

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon, at or before the time and place of said meeting to the Clerk

Reading Dec. 3. 1867

James Reid
John A. Blunt
} Committee of First Universalist Society Reading Mass

Middlesex S.S. Dec 12. 1867

Pursuant to the within warrant I have notified the members of the First Universalist Society in Reading herein described to meet at the time and place for the purposes within mentioned. Seven days before the time appointed for said meeting

L. E. Gleason — Collector

A true copy attest

A. Howes — Clerk

Reading Dec 12th 1867

Met according to the foregoing warrant and proceeded as follows viz:

art. 1st Chose John A. Blunt Moderator

art. 2d Taken up voted to instruct the Ex. Committee to rent Lyceum Hall from the first of January till the remainder of the Society year viz: the last of February, the Society having been notified

to rent the Hall in the Bank Building, if being wanted for that purpose on a lease of three years.

At 5th " Taken up, voted to instruct the Ex. Com. after conferring with the Ex. Com. of the So. Reading Society to notify our Pastor Rev Mr. W. Hayward that owing to the weak and evidently declining condition of our Society that we feel constrained both for his sake and our own that the relation of Pastor and People that has existed between us for nearly three years be terminated at the end of the present Society Year viz the last of February 1868.

Voted to instruct the committee appointed March 1. 1866 to solicit aid for an $800. Church, to strike out so much as related to a Church of any specified value and see how much can be raised for a chapel or Church without regard to the amount to be expended.

Voted to instruct Building Committee appointed Mar. 28. 1867 to ascertain what can be done towards obtaining a suitable location for a Chapel or Church - and report at the annual meeting "The Soliciting Committee" are also instructed to report, at the annual meeting

Andrew Manns — Clerk

( ... ) of
Middlesex SS.

To Lewis E. Gleason Collector
of the first District of Reading in
Said County

Greeting;

... are hereby required
to notify and warn the Members of said Society to
meet at the Old ... in Lyceum Hall ... in
in Reading, Evening (Thursday) the 17th inst. at 1½ o'clock P.M.
act on the following articles to wit;

Art. 1st To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting,
" 2d " ... Secretary and Treasurer,
" 3d " " Ex. Committee for the ensuing year,
" 4th " To choose all necessary Officers for the ensuing year
" 5th " To see what sum of money the Society will raise for
the support of Preaching the ensuing year, and in what
manner they will raise it, or what they will do in
relation thereto.
" 6th To see what action the Society will take in regard to
funds in the hands of the Treasurer
" 8th To see what action the Society will take in relation to
purchasing land and building a church thereon
" 9th To see what instructions the Society will give the Executive Com.
" 10th " " " " " " " " " Collector
" 11th " Transact any other business that may legally come before
said meeting

Hereof fail not and make due return
of this warrant with your doings thereon at or before
the time and place of said meeting to the Clerk

Reading Feb. 6. 1868

James Bill
John A Blunt
Reuben Nichols
Ex. Committee
of the Second Society
of Reading

Middlesex ss. Reading Feb. 8th 1868. Pursuant to the within warrant I have
notified and warned the Members of the Second Society of Reading to meet
at the time and place and for the purposes therein mentioned by posting
a true copy thereof on the outer door of Lyceum Hall
the usual place of meeting of said Society seven days before the time
of said meeting.

Attest Andrew Holmes - Clerk

Lewis E. Gleason Collector
of the First Society

Article 4th Report of previous meeting read and approved

Article 5th Voted on motion of E. E. Gleason to raise the amount by selling the seats and by Subscription

" 6th Taken from the Table. Said Committee made verbal report in substance the same as at previous meeting

" 7th Passed over

" 8th Taken up. voted on motion Chas F. Pinkham voted to buy piece of land near of Bank Building owned by Wm. Proctor afterwards on motion of Reuben Nichols reconsidered the motion. Voted on motion of E. E. Gleason to raise a Committee to buy a piece of land on motion of J. A. Blunt voted to restrict the Committee to two lots Viz: one owned by Wm. Proctor and one owned by Jonas Emmes voted on motion of Henry Cook to restrict the Committee to sum paid not to exceed amount in the Treasury voted on motion of J. A. Blunt to have the Committee consist of five and to be appointed by the Chairman the Chairman appointed Edward Safford, J. E. Walker, E. E. Gleason, Chas F. Pinkham, Andrew Homes

Article 11th Voted on motion of J. A. Blunt to instruct the Committee on Contributions for Church to solicit funds for the same Voted to adjourn to first Monday in April

Andrew Homes — Clerk

[illegible] Treasurer for [illegible]
[illegible] March 1. 1866.

I [illegible] D. E. Johnson in [illegible] with First Universalist Society
for the

Dr.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| To Cash of Treasurer of Festival Com. | | $252.17 |
| " " " Mrs Hanaford (building fund) | | 11.00 |
| " " " E. Burton for Seat | | 1.00 |
| " " " Chas. A. Rogers Treasurer previous Year | | 105.92 |
| " U. S. 7 3/10 Bonds | | 350.00 |
| " Cash for Chairs sold | | 4.37 |
| " Amt list for Collection | | 561.00 |
| 1866 Nov 11th " Cash of Mrs Reuben Nichols building fund | | 11.00 |
| " 30th " " " Paid Treasurer Festival Committee | | 107.34 |
| Feb 14 " " " a friend in aid of Society | | 8.00 |
| " " Collected last years List | | 26.25 |
| " " Interest on Bonds | | 42.47 |
| | | $1465.12 |

Cr.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| By Cash Paid W. W Hayward | | $333.34 |
| " " " C. C. Choir use of room | | 2.00 |
| " " " Premium on Bonds | | 21.00 |
| " " " For Chairs | | 8.75 |
| " " " Hattie L. Weston playing Melodeon | | 15.00 |
| " " " Chas. A. Bessey Leading Choir | | 25.00 |
| " " " J. A. Blunt | | 12.32 |
| " " " Expense Music Committee | | 5.00 |
| " " " Rent of Hall for 1866 | | 115.00 |
| " " " Chas. A. Rogers Collecting | | 13.00 |
| " " on hand | | 224.96 |
| " Bonds on hand | | 550.00 |
| " Amt uncollected | | 139.75 |
| | | $1465.12 |

Report of Executive Committee read and adopted at the Annual Meeting, 1st January, 1885

The Committee, in bringing up this their review of the condition, and action of the Society, during the past year, are led to make the following statements.

From the commencement, there was not an unanimous feeling in favor of continuing the arrangement, by which we were supplied with preaching, and in consequence of this want of unanimity, the amount realized from the sale of seats fell short of the preceding year, and the interest in the welfare and growth of the Society, seemed to decline; in addition, the Society were put to increased expense in procuring singing. Having to hire a chorister, and an organist, at an outlay of one hundred dollars, or nearly that amount, Your Committee would here say, that several members of the choir in former years, again took part in singing and relieved the Committee from their anxiety as to this important branch of public service, they have our thanks for so doing, and they richly deserve them.

The attendance on public worship has not been as large as is desirable, nor as large - we think - as it would have been, had the people taken into consideration the importance of the influence of a full attendance on the growth of the Society.

Another circumstance showing lack of interest and preventing prompt payment of the liabilities of the Society, we have had to contend with; we refer to a want of promptness on the part of the people in making their quarterly payments; In order that a Society may prosper, this matter should not be neglected, and all money should be paid at or before the time it is due.

We have been under the necessity also, of changing our place of meeting, from the 3rd of the Building, to the Town Hall, to which parties by the purchase for a time, [illegible]

of a pecuniary nature, partly in consequence of this measure, a meeting was called, to which the condition and future prospects of the Society were discussed and in consequence of this discussion, the Committee were instructed to [illegible] Lyceum Hall for the remainder of the Society year, and also to notify your Pastor that it was desired that the connection between us and him as Pastor and People should cease at the end of the Society year. It was thought proper that such action should be taken at that time as to allow him time to make an arrangement for the future, and leave the Society free to pursue any course they might deem best. Our Pastor did not seem to take the matter in the spirit which the Society felt it had acted, and publicly withdrew himself from the Society, so far as preaching was concerned on the last Sunday of December 1865, though his name is still on the roll of the Society as a member. This action of the Standard, left the pulpit to be supplied by the Com. at an increased expense over the amount called for by the arrangement in operation at the time of this withdrawal. The Sabbath School connected with the Society has been moderately prosperous, and as it might should be made more so, by securing more attention from the people; its monthly concerts should be more fully attended, and parents should consider it their duties to have their children constantly in attendance, and prepared for its exercises. Your com. would suggest that before any permanent arrangement be made for the coming year an effort be made to unite all the liberal minded people in the Town, in the support of liberal preaching, believing there are enough to form a strong Society, and sustain it nobly instantly. We are also of opinion that it is the only practicable course, having for its object the building up a house of worship and maintaining preaching at least part of the time, & cordially inviting the accomplishment of this desirable object you

Committee respectfully submit to you their annual report

Reading April 17, 1868

James Reed
Reuben Nichols
John A. Blunt
} Ex. Committee

A true Copy

Attest Henry Cook Clerk

Assembled according to adjournment April 6th 1868 but not having a quorum. adjourned to the Second Monday in April.

Assembled April 13th according to adjournment and proceeded as follows to wit;

Chose Henry Cook Clerk- Sworn in by the Moderator.
Voted, on motion of Samuel Holbrook, to rescind the Vote whereby the Committee were restricted to two Lots, Viz; one owned by Wm Proctor and one by Messrs Gowan and Eames.
Voted, on motion of J. A Blunt, That the committee for soliciting Subscriptions to build a meeting house, be discharged.
Voted on motion of Samuel Holbrook. that the committee be instructed to buy the Proctor lot.
Voted, on motion of Samuel Holbrook that the committee be instructed to hire Lyceum Hall for one hundred dollars for the year.
Voted to dissolve the meeting.

Henry Cook
Clerk.

May 6th 1868

Henry Cook was appointed by the Executive committee as delegate to the Boston Association at Beverly May sixth and seventh.

Henry Cook- Clerk

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex ss

To James Read Collector of the
2nd Universalist Society in Reading in said
County Greeting

You are hereby instructed
to notify and warn the members of said Society
to meet at Lyceum Hall on monday Sept 21st at
7½ o'clock to act on the following, to wit,

Article 1st Choose a moderator to preside at said Meeting.

2d To see if the Society will approve the sale of their
Church on Pleasant St.

3d To see if the Society will furnish Land for a Church
or what they will do in relation thereunto

4th To transact such further business as may
legally come before said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return
of this warrant with your doings thereon
at or before the time and place of said
meeting to the Clerk
Reading Sept 12th 1868

Edward Safford.
J. C. Esther. } Committee
Moses Cheever } Universalist Society
Reading

Reading Sept 18th 1868.

This is to certify that I have served the
within warrant by reading at Lyceum Hall,
the day and more before said
meeting

Attest James Read, Collector.

Essex ss. Reading Sept

Assembled Sept 21st 1808 ... according with the foregoing warrant and proceeded as follows to wit.

Article 1st Those names heard recorded on ballot.

" 2d Listned to Reading of deed by the clerk

" " On Motion of Reuben Nichols it was

" Voted;—That the society ratify and confirm the action of the Executive Committee, in selling to Franklin Fletcher, the land belonging to the Society lying on and adjacent to Main and Pearl in Reading and that the said Committee be and they hereby are authorized and directed to affix the seal of the Society to, and execute and deliver to said Franklin Fletcher, in the name and on behalf of the Society, the deed with covenants of warranty, which has now been read to the society and that the said deed be certified by the Clerk's certificate of this vote thereon

" 3d On motion of Lt. C. Gleason, Voted. That a committee be appointed to seek out a site for land on which to build a Church and report their action to the society at some future meeting.

" " On motion of J. A. Blunt:- Voted, That the Executive Committee be such Committee.

" 4th No business transacted under this Article

On motion of J. A. Blunt

Voted:- to dissolve this Meeting

Henry Cook Clerk.

Oct 18th 1808

James Reed was chosen as delegate to the Mass Convention to be holden at Salem on the Oct 20th & 21st. Henry Cook Clerk

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Middlesex S.S. }

To Thomas Reed collector of the
1st Universalist Society in Reading in said County
Greeting.

You are hereby instructed to notify
and warn the members of said Society to meet at the
State Rooms in Lyceum Hall building, on Monday
evening Feb 15th at 7½ o'clock to act on the following articles
to wit

Art 1st To choose a Moderator to preside at said Meeting.
" 2d To hear the Treasurer report and act thereon
" 3d To hear the Executive Committee report and act thereon.
" 4th To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.
" 5th To see how much money the Society will raise for the
support of preaching the ensuing year, and in what
manner they will raise it.
" 6th To hear the reports of all committees and act thereon.
" 7th To see what instructions the Society will give their committee.
" 8th To see what instructions the Society will give their Collector.
" 9th To see if the Society will build a church the ensuing
year or what they will do in relation thereto.
" 10th To see what action the Society will take to change their
future arrangements for what they will do in relation thereto.
" 11th To transact such other business as may legally come before
said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make
due return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the
time and place of said meeting to the
Clerk.

Given under
our hands this
7th day of
February A.D.
1868.

Lewis Flint
Wm H Hazeltine
Selectmen of Reading

I certify that I have served the within warrant
by posting a attested copy thereof at Lyceum Hall building
the usual place of meeting. Feb 10th 1868.

Thomas Reed

Meeting Feb 5th 1851

Met according to the foregoing Notice and proceeded as follows viz.

Art 1st Chose W. T. Talbot Moderator

" 2d Heard the Treasurers report. On motion of E Safford Voted that the Treasurers report be recommitted for revisal and completion

Art 3d Heard the Executive Committees report. On motion of E Safford Voted that it be accepted and adopted.

Art 4th Chose Henry Cook Clerk, and two auditors by the moderator.

" " Chose Jesse Reed Treasurer and Collector.

Chose Edward Safford & C. C. Clemens and J. C. Wilder Executive.

On motion of Jesse Reed Voted that the Executive Committee be also the committee on repairs.

Art 5th On motion of E Safford Voted to raise eight hundred dollars to defray the expenses of the society the ensuing year.

Art 6th On motion of E Safford Voted that the Executive Committee be authorized to act in relation to looking for land on which to build a church and Voted to accept the same.

Art 7th Passed over.

" 8th Passed over.

" 9th Laid on the Table.

" 10th On Motion of E Safford Voted that all members of this society who shall have failed to pay in their annual contribution towards the support of this Society for two consecutive years, may have their name [illegible] the list of members [illegible]

Art 11th On Motion of Jesse Reed Voted that [illegible] be appointed by the chair with permission to associate with them as many persons as they may desire, to act as a committee at a public meeting to form a new society. The chair appointed E. Safford [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| " 5th | " | [illegible] |
| " 29th | " | [illegible] |
| " | " | F. J. Benton. |
| Mar 1st | " | [illegible] |
| " 9th | " | [illegible] |
| April 1st | " | [illegible] |
| " | " | Abatement Estate B. M. Harlem. |
| May 1st | " | Wm Proctor for Land. |
| " | " | Miss Soaver. |
| " 7th | " | B Litchfield. |
| " 19th | " | L. M. (Burrington). |
| " 9th | " | Miss E. A. Hunt. |
| " 15th | " | C. A. Bessy |
| June 15th | " | C B Fairchild |
| [illegible] | " | [illegible] |
| Oct 5th | " | Tax for 1868 |
| " | " | C B Fairchild |
| " 7th | " | Selen Bunnell |
| " 24th | " | Hattie L Smith |
| Dec 1st | " | [illegible] |
| Jan 1st 1869 | " | C. B. Fairchild |
| [illegible] | " | [illegible] |
| " 1st | " | [illegible] |
| " | " | [illegible] |
| " | " | [illegible] |
| " | " | Hattie L Hosford. |
| " | " | C B Fairchild |
| " | " | Unpaid Interest 1866 28,00 / 1867 6,25 / 1868 111,11 |
| " | " | [illegible] |
| " | " | [illegible] |
| " | " | [illegible] |

[illegible]

Board of Directors
Meeting 2nd Mch 1867

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report for the year ending March 1st 1867.

We have in all matters tried to act for the general interest of the society and from our attendance we think.

We find on an average that it would be expedient to have a master that would take an interest in our affairs, one that would seem to be with us in our struggle to raise to a higher standard. one that would seem to unite all the liberal minds and call together all those in favor of liberal principles.

We are indebted to the Rev Mr Partridge for the present manner and deep interest he took in all of the movements of the year in helping us to obtain this date and in arranging our affairs in a satisfactory manner as we could wish.

It was through his recommendation that we obtained our present Pastor the Rev Mr Fairchild, who has so ably and so satisfactorily supplied our pulpit.

We as a Committee feel under many obligations to Mr Fairchild and consider that our present prosperity and condition is mainly through the able manner in which his discourses have been delivered and received. Thus your committee would earnestly recommend the society to secure his services for another year.

We succeeded admirably at the beginning of the year to hire Hall and after much trouble we have obtained one which seems to be quite satisfactory. and we do here determine that we should have a good singing, believing it to be of great importance to the society.

We would here call upon Parents to instruct their children in the path of virtue and truth in every thing that is pure and lovely and of good report.

as ever been dedicated to him.

Taking everything with consideration we feel encouraged at the present condition of the Society in all its department.

The prospect is considered excellent. The congregation is good. The congregations have been large and attentive, and are still on the increase.

The financial department seems to be in a good condition we need to exercise our present way of conducting as until the time come that we shall have a little more in which to take our meetings.

Our annual festival was a decided success and quite satisfactory to all concerned, the sum of money raised being a little the largest we have ever raised in that manner.

Your committee have during the year, bought and sold a lot of land in connection with the society lot on the west, on which is a good paying rent was made, We would recommend that another lot be immediately purchased suitable to build a church on, believing it to be the only way in which the society can prosper for a length of time.

If we can build a church any time within the next ten years in the opinion of the committee we can build it the present year. If we delay much longer in the matter the interest will diminish and our prospects for a church be a good deal less. Therefore we would earnestly recommend that immediate steps be taken in the matter with a determination the result of which shall furnish our next Conference expectations.

Edward Sellers
Francis Glover
W. Chandler
Committee of Society.

Troy, New York

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex ss

To James Nesmith, Collector of First Universalist Society in Reading in said County Greeting.

You are hereby instructed to notify and warn the members of said Society to meet at the Ante Rooms in Lyceum Hall building, on monday the 25th day of Feb. at 7½ o'clock P.M. to act on the following Articles to wit,

Article 1st To Choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

" 2d To see if the Society will transfer the collection of all dues for the present Society year, to the Liberal Christian Society of Reading, said Society becoming responsible for all expenses incurred during the same time for sustaining Public worship, or what they will do in relation to the same.

Article 3d To transact such further business as may legally come before said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, at or before the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands at Reading Oct 14th 1867

Edward Sprague
Amos D. Gibson
W. Chandler
Selectmen of Reading

Reading Oct 14th 1867.

In pursuance of the within Warrant I have notified and warned the members of the First Universalist Society to meet at the time and place and for the purposes therein mentioned.

James Nesmith
Collector

Assembled Oct 25th [illegible] with
the foregoing Warrant and proceeded as follows
to wit.

Article 1st Chose James Reid Moderator

Article 2d On motion of J. Coburn. Voted.
that the Society transfer the collection of all money
for the present year, to the Liberal Christian
Society of Reading, said Society becoming responsible
for all expenses incured during the same time
for sustaining public worship.

Article 3d Voted
to Ratify the amendment to the constitution
proposed in article 10th at the last regular meeting

Article 3d Voted to authorize the executive committee
to cancel the Mortgage against Franklin [illegible]

Article 3d Voted that the names of Isaac Harriman
Alvah S Kendall and Luther Lee
be stricken from the rolls of members of this
Society.- also S.P. Briggs, John Rand, John H Gray, D Minot Jr Mem.
3d Voted that the Clerk be a committee to enquire
of various non contributing members whether they
still desire to continue their membership.

On Motion of Reuben Nichols
Voted to dissolve the meeting.

Henry Cook
Clerk

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex ss.

To the said
Collector of Fort Universalist Society of
Reading in said County
Greeting.

You are hereby instructed
to notify and warn the members of said
society to meet at the Ante Room in
Lyceum Hall building on Friday
evening March 7th at 7½ o'clock to act on
the following articles,
to wit,

Art 1st To chuse a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Art 2d To hear the Treasurers report and act thereon.

Art 3d To hear the Executive committee report and
act thereon.

Art 4th To choose all necessary Officers for the ensuing
year.

Art 5th To hear the report of and other committees
and act thereon.

Art 6th To see what action the Society will require
their Treasurer.

Art 7th To act on any other business that may come
before said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make
due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon
at or before the time and place of said meeting
to the Clerk. E. Walker } Executive Committee
C. C. Cleaves } of Fort Universalist
J. C. Walker } Society of Reading

Dated at Reading that I have posted the within Warrant
to my district, at Lyceum Hall building in Reading,
seven days before the time of said meeting

Reading Feb 25th 1872 James Lord collector

attest Wm. Cook Clerk.

Assembled March 4th 1870
pursuent to the foregoing Warrant and
proceded as follows. Viz

Art 1st Chose James Reid Moderator.
" 2d Heard Treasurers Report as follows.

James Reid Treas. to First Univ Soc in Reading Dr.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1869 | Feb 15 | To Fletchers note | | | 800.00 |
| | " " " | Uncollected Lists | 1866 28,00 | 1867 55,25 | 1868 111,11 194.36 |
| | " " " | Cash on hand | | | 228.99 |
| | Sept 25th | " Interest on Fletchers note | | | 4.80 |
| | | | | | $1271.35 |

Cr.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1869 | Feb 23d | By paid Rent of Hall to March 1st 1869 | | | $105.67 |
| 1870 | March 3d | By uncollected list | $1866 28.00 | $1867 55 25 | 83.25 |
| | " Cash on deposit in Reading Savings Bank | | | | 848.00 |
| | " Cash on hand | | | | 234.43 $1271,35 |

March 3 1870 James Reid Treasurer.

On motion of E. Safford Voted that the Treasurers report
be accepted and adopted.

Art 3d On motion of E. Coburn, Voted that Art 3d be passed over.
Art 4th Chose Chas Cook Clerk and auditor by ballot
" " " James Reid Treasurer " " " " "
" " " Edward Safford, E C Gleason and J. C. Parker
Executive Committee.
Art 5th heard verbal report of clerk on membership
" 6th On Motion of E Safford, Voted that the Treasurer
be instructed to invest our surplus funds in
the Suffolk Savings Bank.
Art 7th On Motion of E. C. Gleason Voted that the sum
of [illegible] be raised to defray the expenses of
the year and be assessed on the polls.

On Motion of A. H. Coburn Voted to dissolve this meeting

Chas Cook Clerk.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Middlesex S.S.

To James Reid, Collector of First Universalist Society of Reading in said County

Greeting,

You are hereby instructed to notify and warn the members of said society to meet at the Ante room in Lyceum Hall building, on Friday evening Nov 25th at 7½ oclock, to act on the following articles, to wit

Article first To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting

Article Second To see if the Society will appropriate the funds of the society to aid in building the new church, now being erected on the Parker estate.

Article Third. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, at or before, the time and place of said meeting. to the Clerk.

Reading Nov 17th 1870.

Edward Safford
Lewis E. Gleason
Executive Committee of First Universalist Society of Reading

This certifies that I have posted the within Warrant at Lyceum Hall building seven days at least before said meeting.

ya's Reid Collector.

Attest Henry Cook Clerk.

Scan this spread



Assembled Friday Dec 25th
1870. in accordance with the fore-going
Warrant. and proceeded as follows.
For want of a quorum adjourned Monday
Evening then 28th inst

assembled monday eve then 28th inst
and proceeded as follows Viz.

article 1st chose John A Blunt to preside.

article 2d On motion of James Reid
Voted.

That the Treasurer be instructed
to collect all moneys due the
Society and pay the same to
the Treasurer of the

Christian Union Society
to
aid in building the new
Church now being erected on Main
Street.

article 3d on motion of James Reid
Voted to dissolve the meeting

Henry Cook Clerk.

Died April 1. 1864.

Died Dec 5. 1864 at Annapolis Md.

Feb 25, 1865.

Withdrawn Dec. 18, 1864.

Died Dec 6. 1864.

Discharged by order of Genl Oct 25. 1864

Died Nov 6 1865.

Discharged by Genl order Oct 25th 1864

Discharged by order of Genl Oct 25th 1864

Died Dec 5. 1864 at Annapolis Md.

Died Nov 15 1865.

Discharged by order of Genl Oct 25th 1864

Died Dec 12th 1864

Gerrit H. Seminck, Withdrew Dec. 10, 1867.
Nathaniel Parker, Died. December 11. 1859.
Amos Flint,
John N. Grey, Discharged by Vote of society Oct 25th 1869
Amos Cummings Jr., Withdrew January 1. 1861
Andrew Howes, Withdrew Apr 6th 1868.
John A. Blunt,
Edwin S. Wainwright, Withdrew Dec. 30, 1867.
Josiah W. Coburn,
John C. White, Died
Oliver Lewis,
T W. Hartshorn, Died
John E. Walker,
Geo. C. Coney, Withdrew January 29. 1861
Henry Cook,
Louis L. Leclair, Discharged by vote of society mar 4th 1870
Minott T. Mann, Discharged by Vote of society Oct 25th 1869
Harry Hunton, " " " " " Mar 4th 1870
James Davis,
Isaac G. Wellington,
D. F. Weston,
William S Richardson
James Reid
Charles F. Pinkham
Wm W. Haywood Discharged by Vote of society Ma. 4th 1870
Charles G. Rogers